

The SCPD PAC Progressive Patriot

The Newsletter for Progressive Activists in NE Ohio

WHAT IS SCPD PAC?

Summit County Progressive Democrats PAC is a grass roots organization of dedicated people committed to social justice on the local, state, national, and international levels. We support efforts that better the lives of all citizens by working to promote human rights, equal economic opportunity, responsive government, a safe, sustainable environment, and a society built on compassion. Our goal is to expand grass roots participation in the political process and to return the federal government to the will of the people. SCPD PAC works to support progressive candidates through grassroots activism, contributions coaching candidates, forums and events and the production of literature and sample ballots to educate the electorate. If you are interested in SCPD PAC, contact

Ingrid Kunstel at
ikunstel@neo.rr.com.

“ Grassroots Action NOW! ”

April 2016

**JOIN US AT OUR NEXT
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING**

APRIL 12 AT 6:30 PM

AKRON PUBLIC LIBRARY



Pray For Brussels



PRAY FOR BRUSSELS

Let's all take a moment of silence in solidarity with the people of Brussels, no matter what their ethnicity.

As we wait for this madness to come to an end, know that we, the people of the world, stand with you.

Our hearts go out to you in your time of pain.

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The President's Corner

Progressive is What Progressive Does

By Bob Gippin
President of SCPD PAC

At a recent SCPD Member meeting, a candidate was asked "What makes you a Progressive?" The candidate ducked and weaved by asking our member to state some "progressive" positions on which to comment. Ouch! But revealing. (Our member actually did come back with some important positions on the spot, it has to be said. No comment on the candidate's comments about them.)

Whatever we may have thought of the candidate from all that, the dialogue raised a fundamental point we all need to keep in mind – we're Progressive Democrats. Our efforts aren't about gaining or holding power for its own sake. We're trying to make the world we live in better, especially for those with little power over their lives.

The candidate could of course have done some self-education about the Progressive positions we hold. Our Mission Statement, Principles and extensive range of Position Statements are on our website. We have no problem explaining what we believe.

More important though is to define our Progressivism by what we do. SCPD isn't an academic exercise. It exists to bring about Progressive change by taking action, not just by putting words on our website. (Not to diminish the important and productive work of creating and re-creating those words to keep them fully current.)

Our proven ability to take effective action is what makes SCPD so well-recognized as a significant force in our community. Especially this year, we can't let up, rest on our laurels or otherwise go slack. Happily, the SCPD engine is revving up nicely. Its fuel is the efforts of its members, all of us. Here's what's happening in which you can be involved – or hopefully even more involved than you already are:

Campaigns: The Campaign Support Committee has the structure in place to mobilize Feet on the Street volunteer help for candidates we support and especially for those we prioritize. Our support will of course be focused on Progressive candidates. The new questionnaire that went out to our members for review is now being sent to candidates

in order to let us measure how Progressive they are. They will of course also be invited to speak to you and answer your questions before decisions on support are made.



But Feet on the Street needs Feet! We did much better with volunteer help last year, but we need to step it up even more this year. That shouldn't be hard with so many vital races on the ballot. And don't take "Feet" literally. We also need help on phones, with mailings and other such "indoor" things that any of us should be able to do. Please let Sarah Rubens know that you'll help.

Issues: The Issues Committee likewise has a good structure in place to translate our positions into action. That is usually done by communicating to government officials about pending legislation or executive actions, through Lobby Alerts for our members to send. As with campaigning, Alerts need to be sent to mean anything! It's easy to do and extremely important. You don't have to be on the Committee to do it. Likewise, we're often involved in demonstrations, especially for Gun Violence Prevention. Those actions need your help too.

Help on the Committee is needed too. There are lots of issues for which we don't have working teams, or even leaders. Surely you've got a Progressive issue that is especially important to you!

Convention: If you didn't know that the Republican Convention will be in Cleveland July 18-21, we'll let you resume your Rip Van Winkle nap. And assuming you know that, we hope you also know that SCPD will be actively involved in "responding" to the Convention. We will be training and transporting demonstrators, probably also housing out-of-towners. We will also be available to the media. Help is needed for transportation and housing, in particular. You can of course also join the demonstrations.

The Convention response effort will be short and intense. Hopefully lots of fun for us, not that I would wish our Republican friends anything less than a fun experience too. Please let Ingrid Kunstel know that you'll help.

Cont. From Page 2

Fundraising: We're extremely excited that Cecile Richards, President of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, will be our Fundraiser Keynote Speaker on May 5! As good as our past events have been, this may be the best ever. The "Fundies" are a well-oiled machine, but more help is always needed to prep for and staff the event itself, this year in particular. Plus there is never enough help to do invitation follow-up calls and to provide Silent Auction items. Please let Sherrie Weitzenhof know that you'd like to help out. And of course please attend the Fundraiser!

Communications: We talk to ourselves pretty well – these Newsletters, Yahoo, Facebook, etc. – but we also have to tell the world what we believe and what we're doing and we can never do enough of that. Same as everything else, it takes personal effort to put out press releases, tweets, even more Facebook posts and other uses of social media. We need to be more visible! Taking on Communications tasks likewise

can be done from the comfort of your home. Ingrid runs this too and she doesn't believe in meetings. Like to have your voice heard? Please let her know you'd like to take on a piece of this Communications action.

Outreach: For sure there are many more people out there who ought to be members of SCPD and active ones – just look at the Letters to the Editor in the Beacon Journal. And there are other organizations with whom we can and should be working closely. You probably belong to one or more of them. This too takes effort. Please help David Hamilton with Outreach to other people and groups.

SCPD is uniquely able to translate Progressive thought into action. We know that Progressives in other places wish they could match we do. So take advantage of the opportunity to be a Progressive by what you do as a Progressive!

SCPD Candidate Training

By Tom Schmida

On February 20th, SCPD-PAC launched its initiative to provide a detailed and comprehensive training for candidates, potential candidates, campaign managers and activists. The candidate training consisted of a full-day session that covered a wide range of topics including fundraising, messaging and public speaking, field operations, and campaign organization. Thirteen participants attended the training which was conducted at the Bit Factory in downtown Akron.

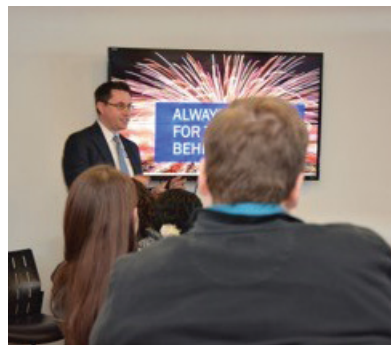
and public speaking. Thomas Townsend gave an extensive presentation on field operations and campaign organization.

In addition to the training, each of the participants was given a jump drive that contains the recently completed SCPD Resource Manual for candidates which is an ongoing project of our Candidate Development Extended Committee.



The training session was opened by President Bob Gippin, who presented on the mission and core values of SCPD followed by Campaign Support Committee Chair Sarah Rubens, who explained the SCPD endorsement process and highlighted the supports offered to endorsed candidates.

The training that followed was conducted by SCPD activists who have extensive experience and expertise in all aspects of political campaign operations. Liz Walters led the session on fundraising and financing a campaign, followed by Eddie Rice and Pete Zeigler who presented on campaign messaging



At the conclusion of the full-day training, participants were asked to complete an evaluation of the sessions. All presenters and sessions received rave reviews, and several participants expressed a desire for additional training. Obviously, we were pleased with the results.

Special "thanks" go out to Guy Marentette for his technical support, and to Liz Walters and Mike Wheeler for their assistance with the resource manual.

SCPD Fundraiser

By Sherrie Weitzenhof

SCPD Annual Celebration and Fundraiser
 Thursday, May 5
 Hilton Garden Inn
 1307 E. Market St, Akron
 Keynote Speaker Cecile Richards
 President, Planned Parenthood Action Fund

SCPD's annual celebration fundraiser will be very special this year with keynote speaker Cecile Richards. Ms. Richards is a nationally respected leader in the field of women's health and reproductive rights. As president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America and Planned Parenthood Action Fund, Ms. Richards leads a movement that has worked for nearly 100 years to build a healthier and safer world for women and teens. Our celebration theme is "Advancing Progressive Values" and "women's rights" is one of SCPD's strong progressive values.

To celebrate Cecile Richards' involvement, we will have a special reception for her starting at 5:30. At the reception, people who have contributed at least \$300 in sponsorship for the event will have personal time with Ms. Richards and can have their picture taken with her, to be shared with the contributor.

The annual celebration starts at 6 pm with registration and hors d'oeuvres, along with a cash bar. The program will begin at 7 pm. After Ms. Richards presentation, we will honor SCPD members who in the past year have contributed above and beyond to the organization. The fundraiser also includes a silent auction, at which participants can bid on items donated for the event.


Tickets for the fundraiser are \$55 for SCPD members, \$65 for non-members and \$35 for Young Democrats. We urge everyone to register in advance so that we can alleviate security issues for walk-ins. Sponsorship levels are: \$1500 platinum, \$1000 gold, \$500 silver, \$250 bronze, and \$100 patron. Bronze level sponsors get one free ticket to the event, while silver and greater get two. Checks should be made out to SCPD-PAC.

For more information, contact Sherrie Weitzenhof, sweitzenho@aol.com or 330-666-2627.

SCPD PAC
 Annual Fundraiser and Awards Celebration

RACIAL AND INCOME EQUALITY
 EDUCATION
 GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION
 WOMEN'S RIGHTS
 LBGT+Q ISSUES
 THE ENVIRONMENT

Keynote Speaker



Advancing Progressive Values

Thursday, May 5th 2016
 6:00 - 9:30 PM
 Hilton Garden Inn
 1307 E. Market St
 Akron, OH 44305

TICKETS: Admission \$65 • Members \$55 • Young Dems \$35
 Special Private Reception with Cecile Richards at
 \$300 Fundraiser Sponsorship or Above

Silent Auction • 50/50 Drawing • Wine Auction • Awards • Food • Cash Bar

For information: (330) 666-2627 or sweitzenho@aol.com • Send Checks to: SCPD PAC P.O. Box 477 Bath, OH 44210-0477

Ohio Primary Results**By Sarah Rubens and Eddie Rice**

150,756 Summit County citizens cast their vote on Tuesday, March 15, 2016. In a traditionally Democratic county, Republican turnout was higher than the Democrats by a little more than 10,000 votes. Some say that Democrats were switching parties just to vote against Trump. Regardless, turnout will be much harder to predict—by both number and party line—in the general election. We must work as a group to educate our fellow citizens to vote for the right candidates and down the whole ticket in November.

Two of SCPD's own members—Tim Crawford and David Hamilton—ran successful Summit County Council races. Crawford defeated Nolan James and David Hamilton won a three-way contest besting both Deandre Forney and Tamela Lee.

The national stage saw former Ohio Governor Ted Strickland defeat his primary challenger P.G. Sittenfeld. Hillary Clinton soundly defeated Bernie Sanders for the presidential primary. She will receive 81 delegates from Ohio to Bernie's 62. For Congress, Tim Ryan and Michael Wager coasted to easy victories in their primaries.

At the statehouse level, Greta Johnson, Bobby McDowall, Emilia Sykes, and Vernon Sykes, all ran unopposed during

their contests. Judith Lynn-Lee defeated Matthew Browarek for the 38th House District.

While the presidential contest will be busy stealing headlines, many county-wide races will be hotly contested. Many of our new, and long-time, SCPD members will be running exciting races. Whether it's Clerk of Courts, Domestic Relations Judge, Court of Appeals, or the Court of Common Pleas, among many others, our members will need your help getting elected. (Note: that's not an endorsement of any of those races).

In looking to November, the Republicans have centered on two scary individuals. Whether it's the Orange Man or the Texan-Canadian, we must do everything possible to get Democrats to the polls on November 8th. We must stop Trump and we cannot let them Cruz to victory.

Much of why we work so hard in every election is best summed up by Barbara Boxer, "Every citizen of this country should be guaranteed that their vote matters, that their vote is counted, and that in the voting booth, their vote has as much weight as that of any CEO, any member of Congress, or any President."



You Have GOT to Meet Her!

By Ingrid Kunstel

Our featured member for this newsletter is Jean Mankamyer. You have probably seen her at our monthly meetings. She is a short little dynamo with beautiful, wispy silver hair.

She has been attending SCPD meetings for a number of years but has always stayed in the background. In fact she describes herself as a behind-the-scenes kind of person. That quietness hides a woman with a very interesting history.

When asked how she got involved in politics, Jean said that she believes it is in her DNA. Her mother's side of the family goes back to early New England. There was political activism through the years. Her mother's father, who had been a Republican, was so incensed by what Hoover had done to the country, he switched parties and worked for the Orange County NY Democratic Party during FDR's term, before enlisting in the Merchant Marines in WWII. His uncle, a lawyer in Greenfield, MA, served in the state legislature twice. The state Democratic Party nominated him twice for Lt. Governor. He served in other state and local political positions, as well. On her father's side, Jean's great aunt was a Suffragette in NY.

Jean's parents were both Democrats. Due to her dad's job they were frequently transferred around the country, from Dallas to D.C. to Minnesota where Jean mainly grew up.

With all of that as background, Jean says that the real catalyst for her political activism was her High School American

Government teacher, who had been an organizer for Walter Reuther before becoming a teacher. As part of his class requirements, all students had to volunteer to work at least 1 hour a week for the political party of their choice. Jean volunteered for the DFL, the Democratic Farmer Labor party that was co-founded by Hubert Humphrey and who, because of his leadership in passing legislation for the Civil Rights Act, the Peace Corps, Affirmative Action, etc. was one of her political heroes. Out of the DFL came the likes of Eugene McCarthy, Walter Mondale, Paul Wellstone, Al Franken and Amy Klobuchar. It was a great place to 'cut her teeth' in politics – a wonderful training ground. And so it began.

After graduating high school, Jean went to school in Ohio at Otterbein College where she met her husband Richard but better known as Mack. Having grown up in Minneapolis, which was very progressively Democratic, Otterbein seemed very sedate to her. She dropped out of school and married her husband. She finished her degree in Cincinnati in anthropology.



With two young daughters, Jean became a stay-at-home mother. She did community volunteerism, as well as volunteered for Democratic candidates, often dragging her two daughters along to help with canvassing. She was also involved in the civil rights movement and the women's movement while in Cincinnati.

After 10 years in Cincinnati, the family moved back to Minneapolis. Mack was in the furniture business with Ethan Allen and they moved back to open their own store named Roche Bobois, which featured French furniture and design. They were quite successful for five years but then OPEC raised oil prices up and a recession hit. They sold their store to their French partners and moved to Akron in the late 1980s.

Coming from the progressive communities of the Twin Cities, Jean was devastated. She focused on her career with Arhaus Furniture and did nothing political for a number of years. She says that she watched as Don Plusquellic become Mayor and transformed Akron into a prosperous, progressive community.

In 2004, Jean and Mack housed an out-of-town volunteer for the Kerry Campaign. They decided that maybe they should volunteer at the polls if they were keeping a volunteer. They went to the Copley Road Satellite Office and there met Tamela Lee. Tamela was impressed by Jean and in 2010 asked her to run her campaign when she ran for Ohio State Senate.

Jean got to know Denise Woods at a Wellstone Training Program and Denise urged her to join Summit County Progressive Democrats. She agreed, but said she was not coming to any meetings. Of course she did come to meetings and is now serving on one of the three segments of the Ad Hoc committee planning our presence at the RNC convention.

She and Mack enjoy nature and being outdoors, travelling and spending time with family. She spends time with her mother as her health declines.

She has two grown daughters. Katy lives in Wisconsin and served as Chair of the Eau Claire County Party and was Democratic organizer for western Wisconsin. She is now Director, Development Communications for Beloit College. Tracy lives locally and works in marketing and is also interested in progressive politics. Jean has two granddaughters who are off to college.

Please take some time to get to know Jean. She is personable, knowledgeable and interesting.

Ways to Reduce the Influence of Big Money

By Frank Kunstel



Is it possible to reduce the influence of big money in political campaigns? In the last newsletter it was noted that in 2016 total spending on the Presidential and Congressional races will top \$5 billion. What might be done about it?

First, let's dispel the myth that this year proves that money can't buy elections. Some people say that Jeb Bush started his campaign with over \$100 million and it didn't do him any good. And Bernie Sanders is having some success with only small donors, no big PACs. That argument is a distraction. It costs over a billion dollars to wage a Presidential campaign and over \$11 million to win a Senatorial campaign. When an individual or corporation makes a big contribution to a candidate, it buys them access if the candidate wins. The candidate won't give an audience to someone who gives \$100, but he or she will to someone who gives \$100,000 or one million dollars.

Here is a summary of proposals to control the influence of money in campaigns.

1. "The long game." This consists of changing the Supreme Court through installing different justices, or making a series of legal arguments that cause Citizens United to be overturned, or a Constitutional amendment counteracting the Citizen's ruling. Legal scholars should start making the case that the court's insistence on corruption as the only reason for regulating campaign finance is flawed—regardless of corruption, big donations create an un-level playing field and drown out the voice of the average citizen, undermining democracy (see [here](#)). As the name implies, it will be a long time before any of these occur.
2. Strengthen the parties. One proposal is that strengthening the major parties by removing some of the

constraints they have on spending would off-set the power of the independent PACs. Donors to parties are visible and the parties foster wider participation than the PACs, which also makes them more accountable to ordinary citizens, at least compared to the single-issue and/or extreme positions of many PACs or individual large donors. See [here](#) for this proposal.

3. Strengthen disclosure. If big donors were made public, then everyone could be aware of who is trying to purchase influence. The DISCLOSE Act would require more public exposure of big donors, but Congress has been unable to pass it so far. And, the SEC could require corporations to list in their shareholder reports all political contributions they make. And, the President could issue an Executive Order requiring all federal contractors to make public their political contributions. See [here](#) for an outline of these proposals.
4. Tax campaign expenditures. This proposal ([here](#)) would tax expenditures of PACs and similar organizations in a progressive manner—expenditures up to \$1 million might be taxed at 10% while expenditures over \$10 million might be taxed at 90%. Further, the larger the number of donors to the organization, the lower the tax, thus fostering wider participation and reducing the value of single large donors.
5. Small donor matching. New York City has the most publicized of these programs, in which donations up to \$175 are matched on a 6:1 ratio. So a contribution of \$100 results in a total of \$1225 to the campaign (see [here](#), especially pp. 4-5). Donors can still make large contributions, but only the first \$175 is matched. Further, a threshold number of donors must be achieved before any matching occurs. This plan encourages candidates to reach out to more donors and makes small donations worth more.



In Memoriam



Tom M. Liston passed away on March 22, 2016 at the age of 76 years.

He was born in Kansas City, Mo., and moved to the Akron area in 1999 following his retirement from Trans World Airlines.

He received a Catholic education under the tutelage of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, and thence a degree in English from Rockhurst University in Kansas City. In 1962 he entered the Navy flight-training program and received his wings the following year. He ended his service in 1967 as a Navy Lieutenant with 3,000 hours of flight time, much of it in the Vietnam theatre. In 1967 he began his career with Trans World Airlines, retiring as a Captain in 1995.

From the time of his retirement to his death he devoted himself to his greatest interests: ecology and wildlife preservation; progressive Democratic politics; writing; listening to great music; and nurturing his friendships. He did annual volunteer stints with the U. S. Forest Service in Alaska, Minnesota and Ohio, developing data on breeding bird locations and migration patterns. His greatest treasure, besides his large, extended family, was his cabin in northern Minnesota, where his love of nature and solitude was rewarded for nearly 40 years. In the Akron area he was a founding member of the Summit County Progressive Democrats, and served as the organization's first Vice President. He was a frequent contributor to the letters section of the Beacon Journal.

Tom is survived by his first wife, Joan, and their four children: Peter, Michael, Monica and Andrew; seven grandchildren; by his loving wife, Barbara Medlock, and two stepchildren, Kathryn and Alex Medlock; by seven siblings and many, many good friends. Any donations are requested to be sent to the Retirement Fund of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, 6400 Minnesota Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

You will be greatly missed, dear friend.



SCPD PAC Executive Committee

President - Robert Gippin
 Executive Vice President - Thomas Townsend
 Administrative Vice President - Sherrie Weitzenhof
 Executive Secretary – Eddie Rice
 Recording Secretary – Guy Marentette
 Treasurer – Pete Ziegler
 Assistant Treasurer – Currently Vacant

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 Chair of Issues & Education – Richard Bardoulas
 Chair of Outreach – David Hamilton
 Chair of Fundraising – Mike Wheeler
 Chair of Candidate Support – Sarah Rubens